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THE·NEW
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HAS WARLOCK® GONE MAD!?

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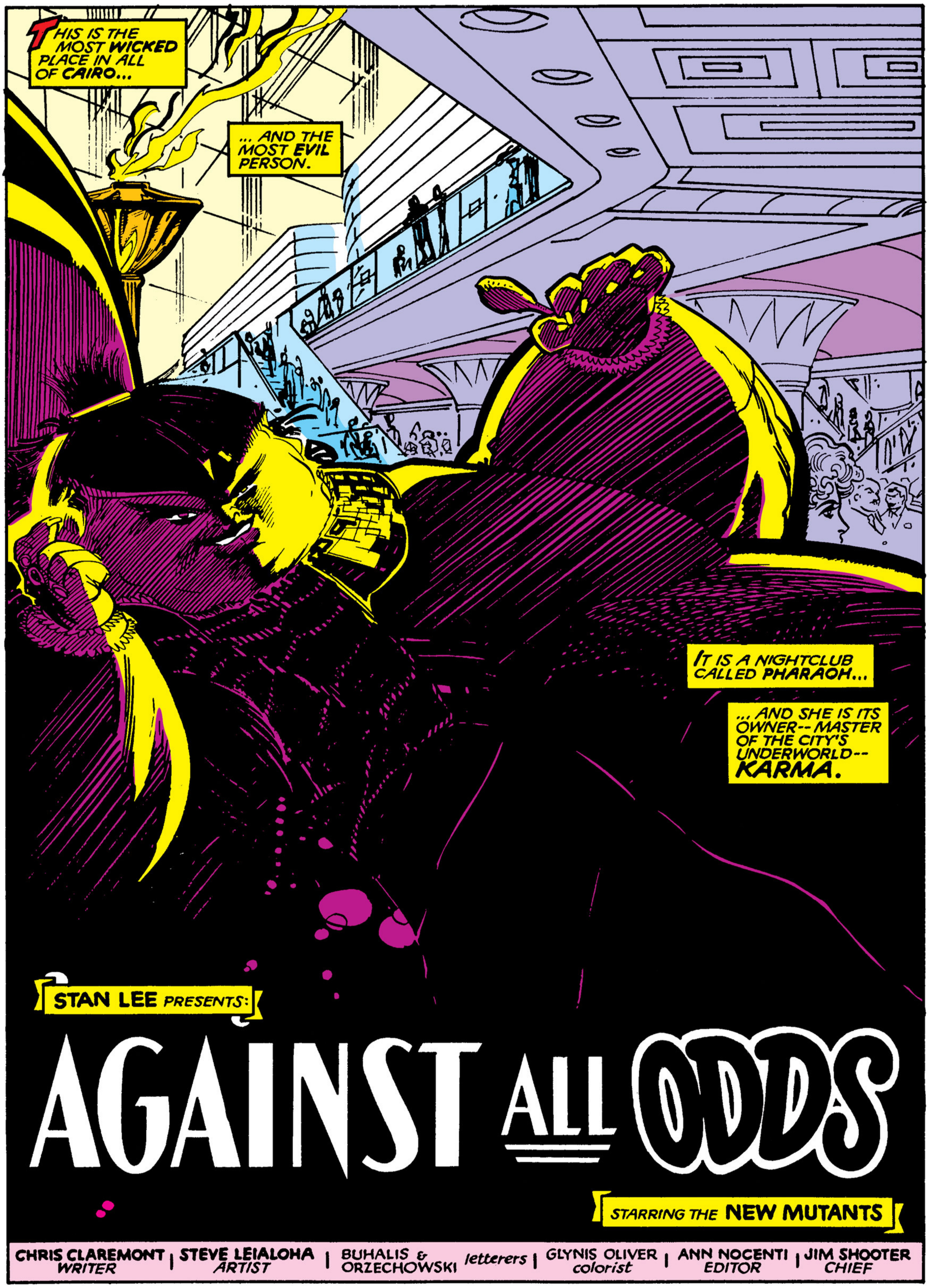
THIS IS THE MOST WICKED PLACE IN ALL OF CAIRO...
... AND THE MOST EVIL PERSON.
IT IS A NIGHTCLUB CALLED PHARAOH...
... AND SHE IS ITS OWNER-- MASTER OF THE CITY'S UNDERWORLD-- KARMA.
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
AGAINST ALL ODDS
STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS
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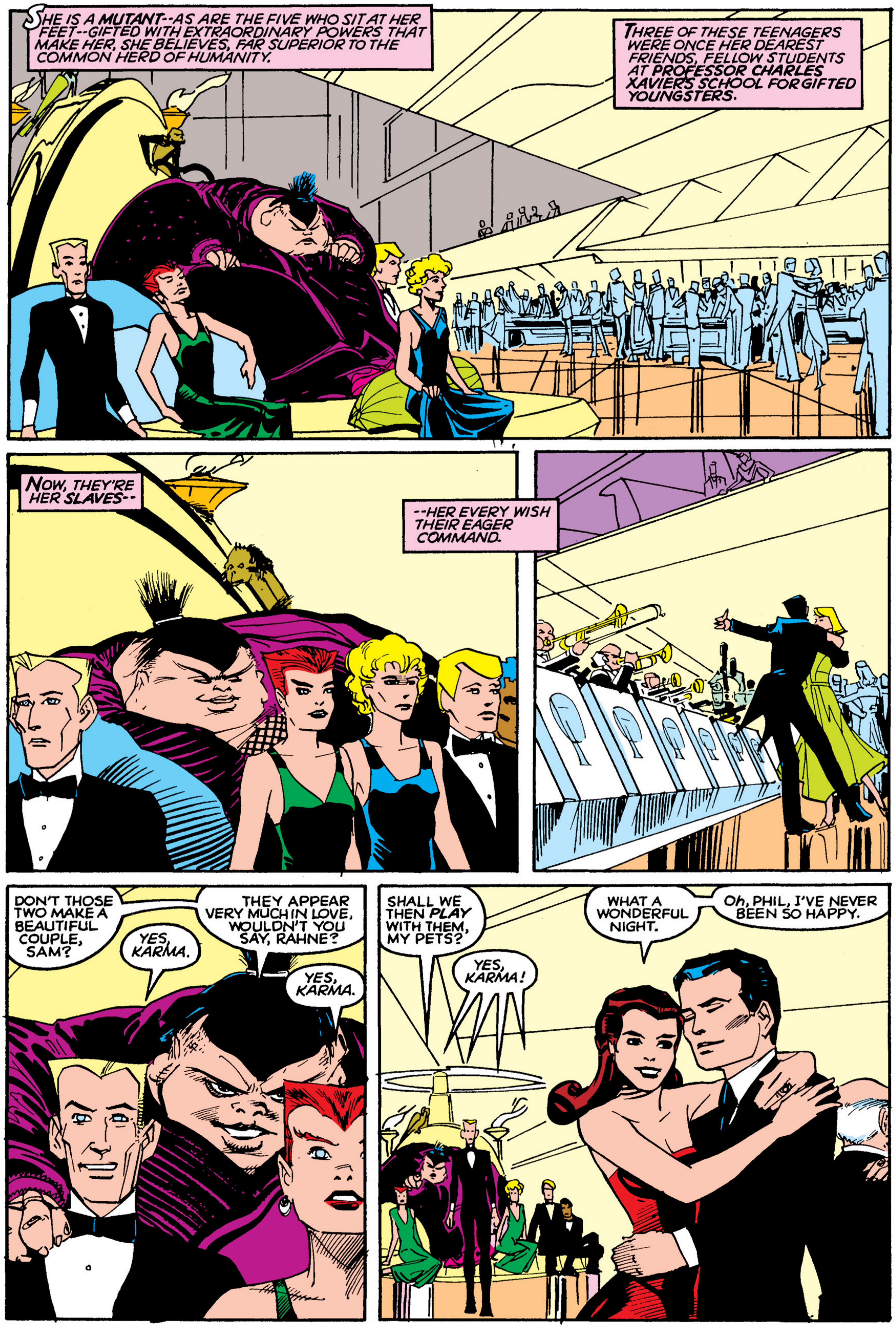
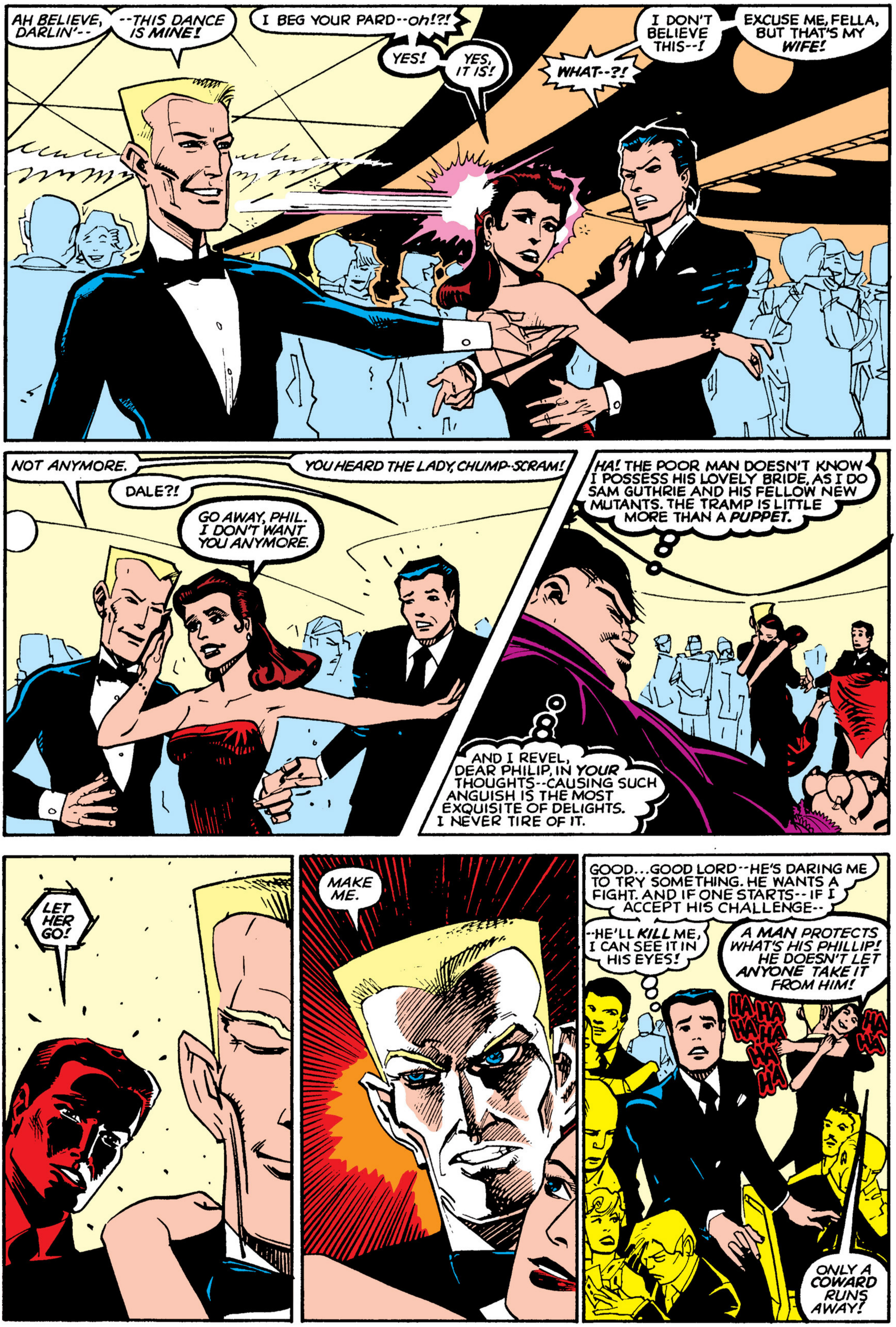
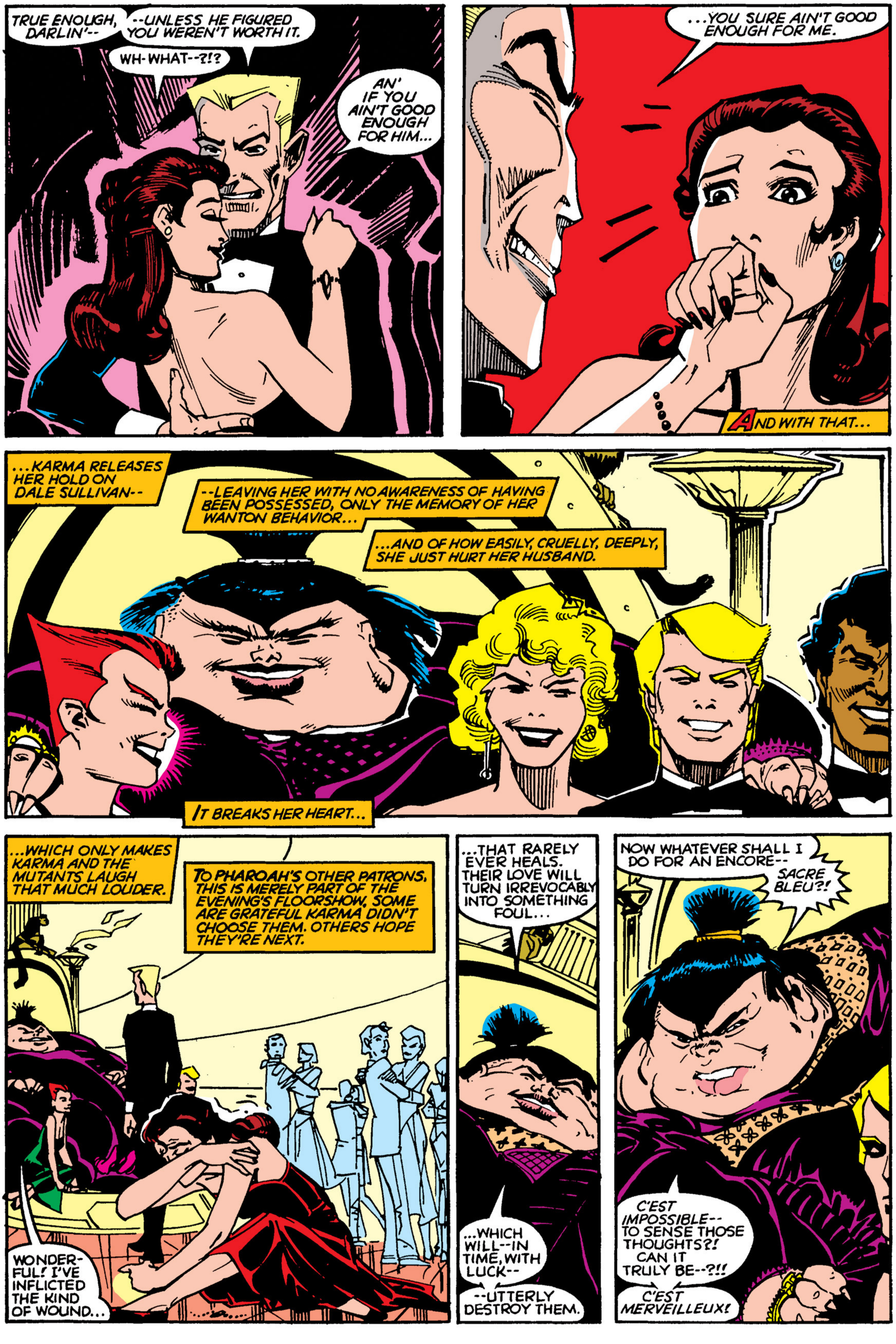
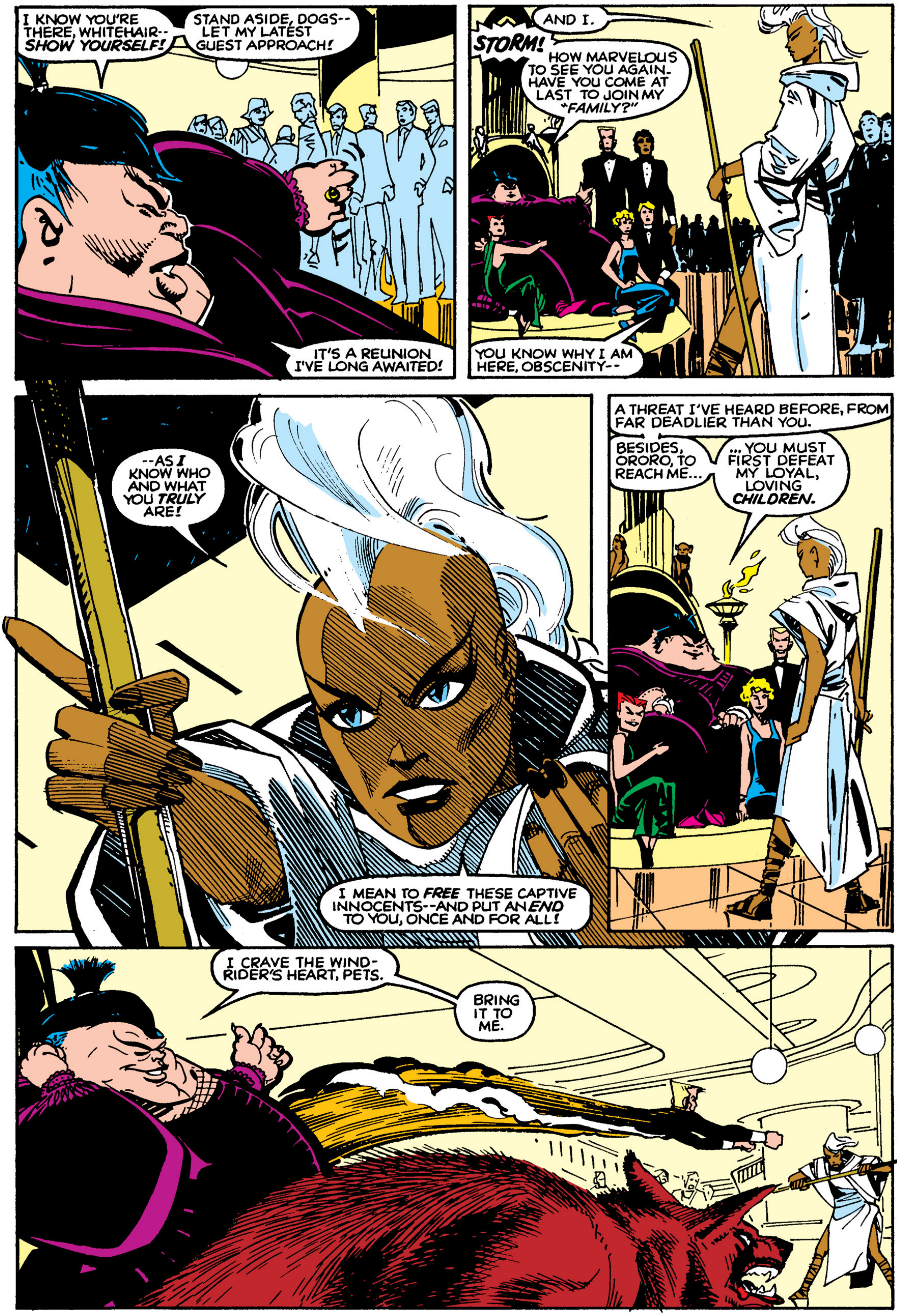
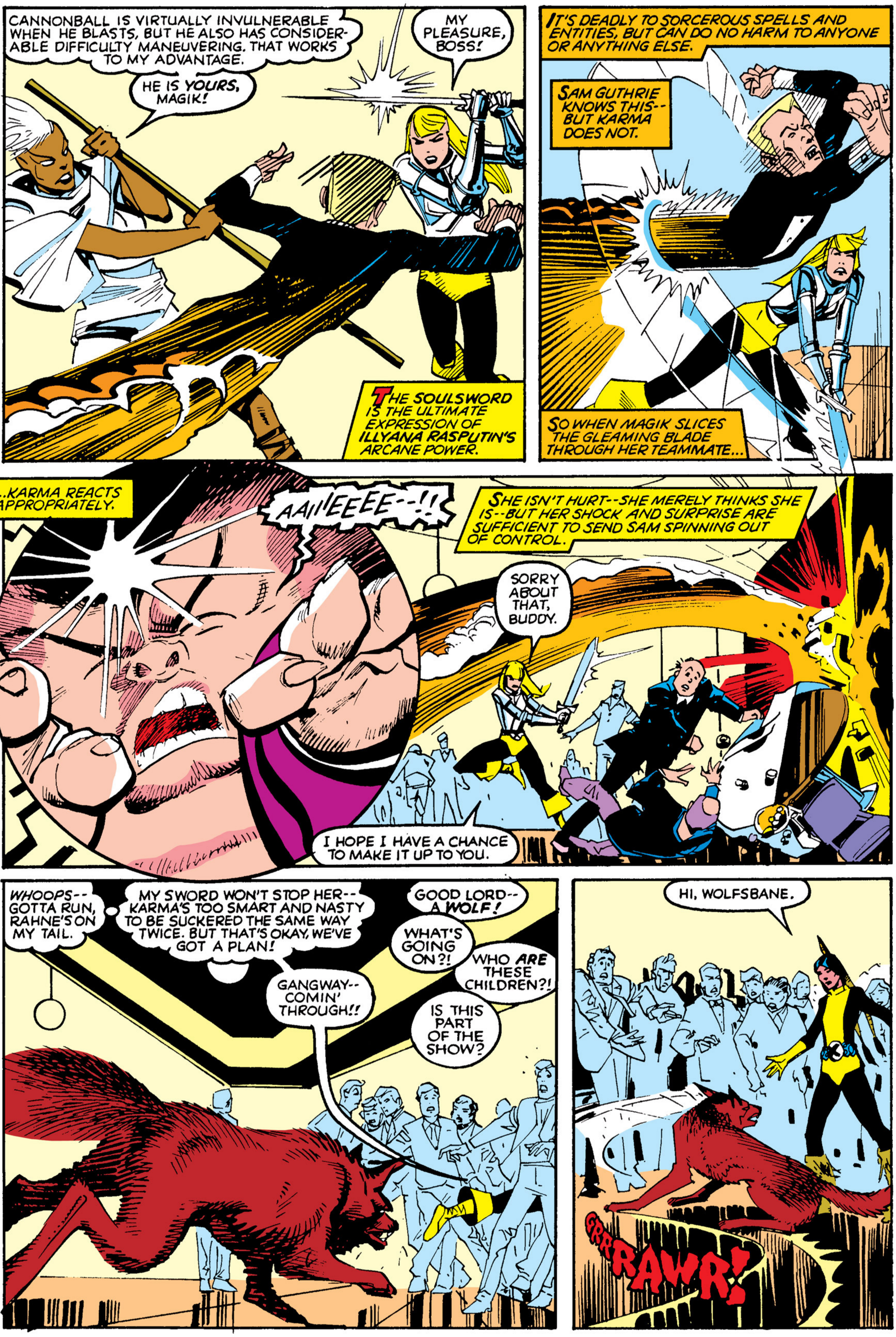
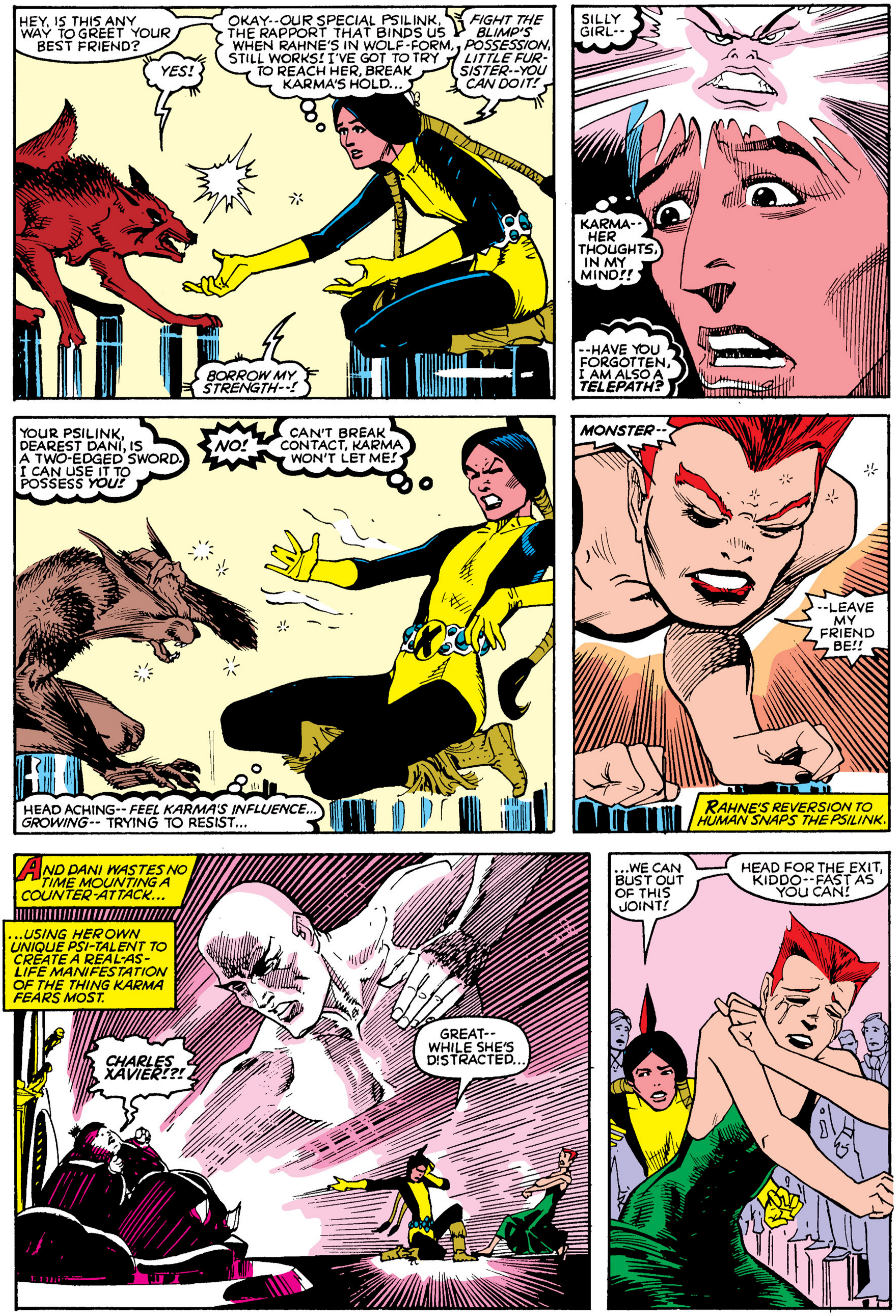

SHE IS A MUTANT--AS ARE THE FIVE WHO SIT AT HER FEET--GIFTED WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS THAT MAKE HER, SHE BELIEVES, FAR SUPERIOR TO THE COMMON HERD OF HUMANITY.
THREE OF THESE TEENAGERS WERE ONCE HER DEAREST FRIENDS, FELLOW STUDENTS AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
NOW, THEY'RE HER SLAVES--
--HER EVERY WISH THEIR EAGER COMMAND.
DON'T THOSE TWO MAKE A BEAUTIFUL COUPLE, SAM?
YES, KARMA.
THEY APPEAR VERY MUCH IN LOVE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, RAHNE?
YES, KARMA.
SHALL WE THEN PLAY WITH THEM, MY PETS?
YES, KARMA!
WHAT A WONDERFUL NIGHT.
Oh, PHIL, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY.

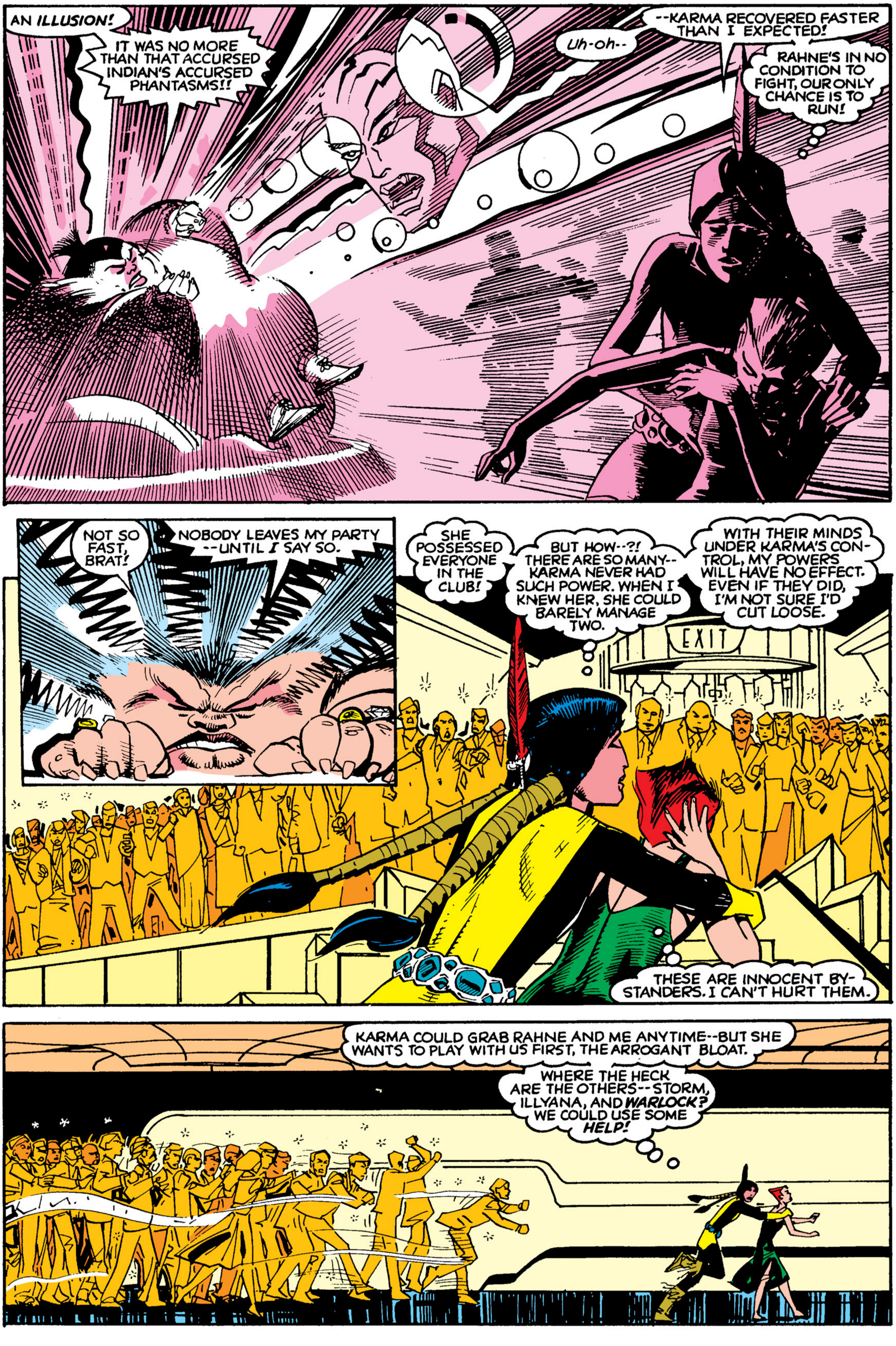

AH BELIEVE, DARLIN'--
--THIS DANCE IS MINE!
I BEG YOUR PARD--oh!?!
YES!
YES, IT IS!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS--!
EXCUSE ME, FELLA, BUT THAT'S MY WIFE!
WHAT--?!
NOT ANYMORE.
YOU HEARD THE LADY, CHUMP-SCRAM!
DALE?!
GO AWAY, PHIL. I DON'T WANT YOU ANYMORE.
HA! THE POOR MAN DOESN'T KNOW I POSSESS HIS LOVELY BRIDE, AS I DO SAM GUTHRIE AND HIS FELLOW NEW MUTANTS. THE TRAMP IS LITTLE MORE THAN A PUPPET.
AND I REVEL, DEAR PHILIP, IN YOUR THOUGHTS--CAUSING SUCH ANGUISH IS THE MOST EXQUISITE OF DELIGHTS. I NEVER TIRE OF IT.
LET HER GO!
MAKE ME.
GOOD...GOOD LORD--HE'S DARING ME TO TRY SOMETHING. HE WANTS A FIGHT. AND IF ONE STARTS--IF I ACCEPT HIS CHALLENGE--
--HE'LL KILL ME, I CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES!
A MAN PROTECTS WHAT'S HIS PHILLIP! HE DOESN'T LET ANYONE TAKE IT FROM HIM!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA
ONLY A COWARD RUNS AWAY!

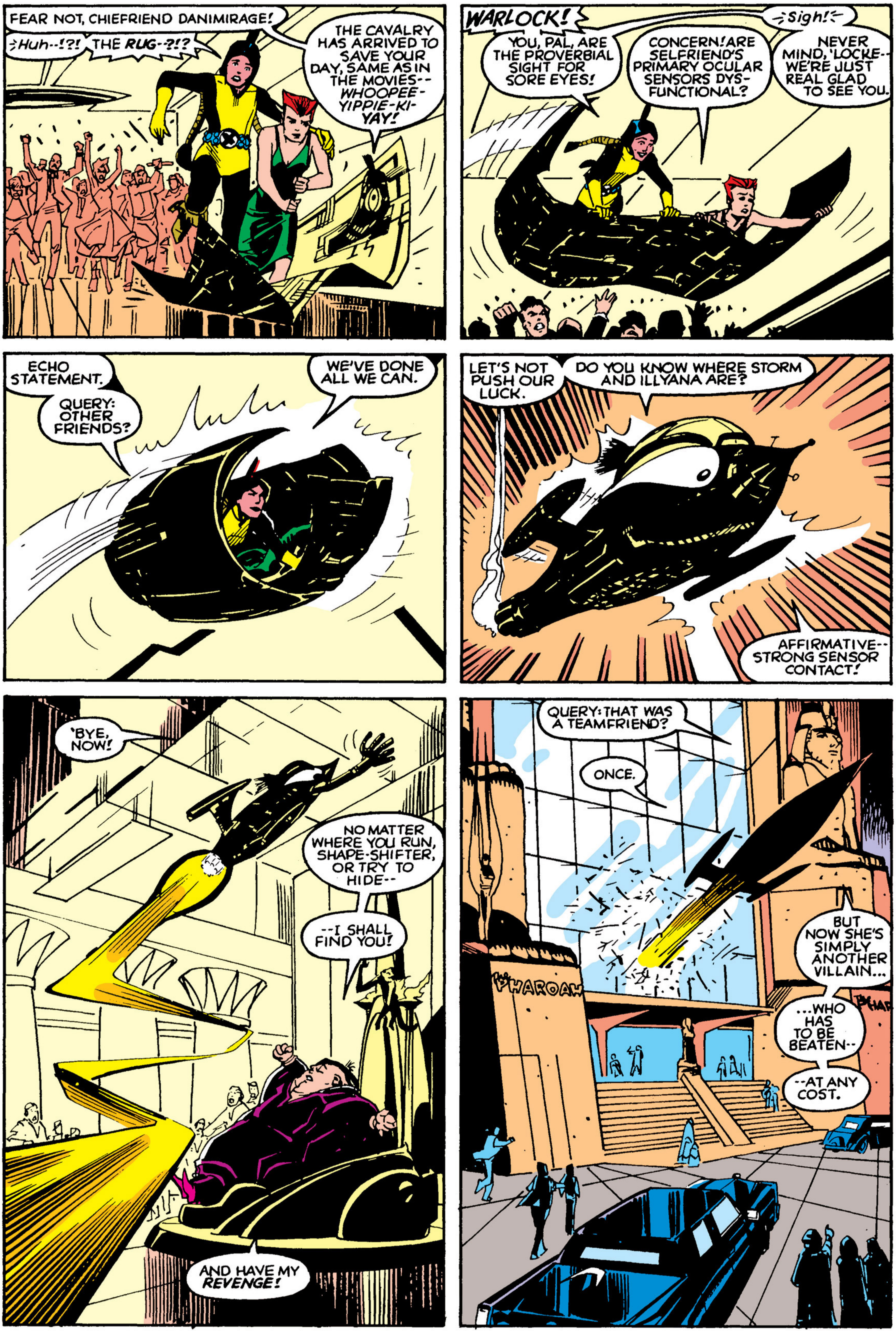

TRUE ENOUGH, DARLIN'--
--UNLESS HE FIGURED YOU WEREN'T WORTH IT.
WH-WHAT--?!?
AN' IF YOU AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM...
...YOU SURE AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
AND WITH THAT...
...KARMA RELEASES HER HOLD ON DALE SULLIVAN--
--LEAVING HER WITH NO AWARENESS OF HAVING BEEN POSSESSED, ONLY THE MEMORY OF HER WANTON BEHAVIOR...
...AND OF HOW EASILY, CRUELLY, DEEPLY, SHE JUST HURT HER HUSBAND.
IT BREAKS HER HEART...
...WHICH ONLY MAKES KARMA AND THE MUTANTS LAUGH THAT MUCH LOUDER.
TO PHAROAH'S OTHER PATRONS, THIS IS MERELY PART OF THE EVENING'S FLOORSHOW. SOME ARE GRATEFUL KARMA DIDN'T CHOOSE THEM. OTHERS HOPE THEY'RE NEXT.
WONDERFUL! I'VE INFLICTED THE KIND OF WOUND...
...THAT RARELY EVER HEALS. THEIR LOVE WILL TURN IRREVOCABLY INTO SOMETHING FOUL...
...WHICH WILL--IN TIME, WITH LUCK--
--UTTERLY DESTROY THEM.
NOW WHATEVER SHALL I DO FOR AN ENCORE--
SACRE BLEU?!
C'EST IMPOSSIBLE-- TO SENSE THOSE THOUGHTS?! CAN IT TRULY BE--?!!
C'EST MERVEILLEUX!

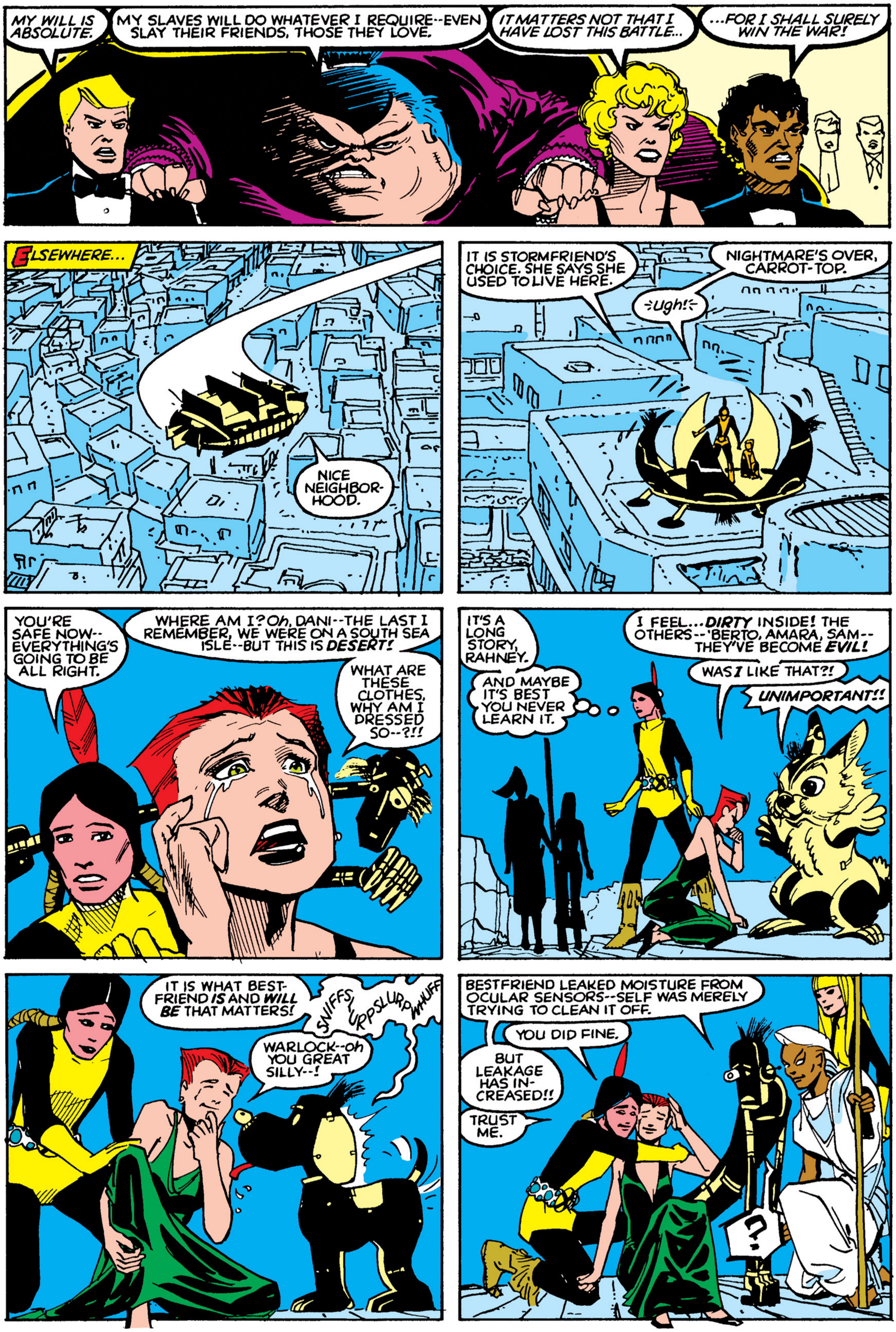

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, WHITEHAIR-- ***SHOW YOURSELF!***
STAND ASIDE, DOGS-- LET MY LATEST GUEST APPROACH!
IT'S A REUNION I'VE LONG AWAITED!
AND I.
STORM!
HOW MARVELOUS TO SEE YOU AGAIN. HAVE YOU COME AT LAST TO JOIN MY "***FAMILY***?"
YOU KNOW WHY I AM HERE, OBSCENITY--
--AS ***I*** KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU ***TRULY*** ARE!
I MEAN TO ***FREE*** THESE CAPTIVE INNOCENTS--AND PUT AN ***END*** TO YOU, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
A THREAT I'VE HEARD BEFORE, FROM FAR DEADLIER THAN YOU.
BESIDES, ORORO, TO REACH ME...
...YOU MUST FIRST DEFEAT MY LOYAL, LOVING ***CHILDREN***.
I CRAVE THE WIND-RIDER'S HEART, PETS.
BRING IT TO ME.

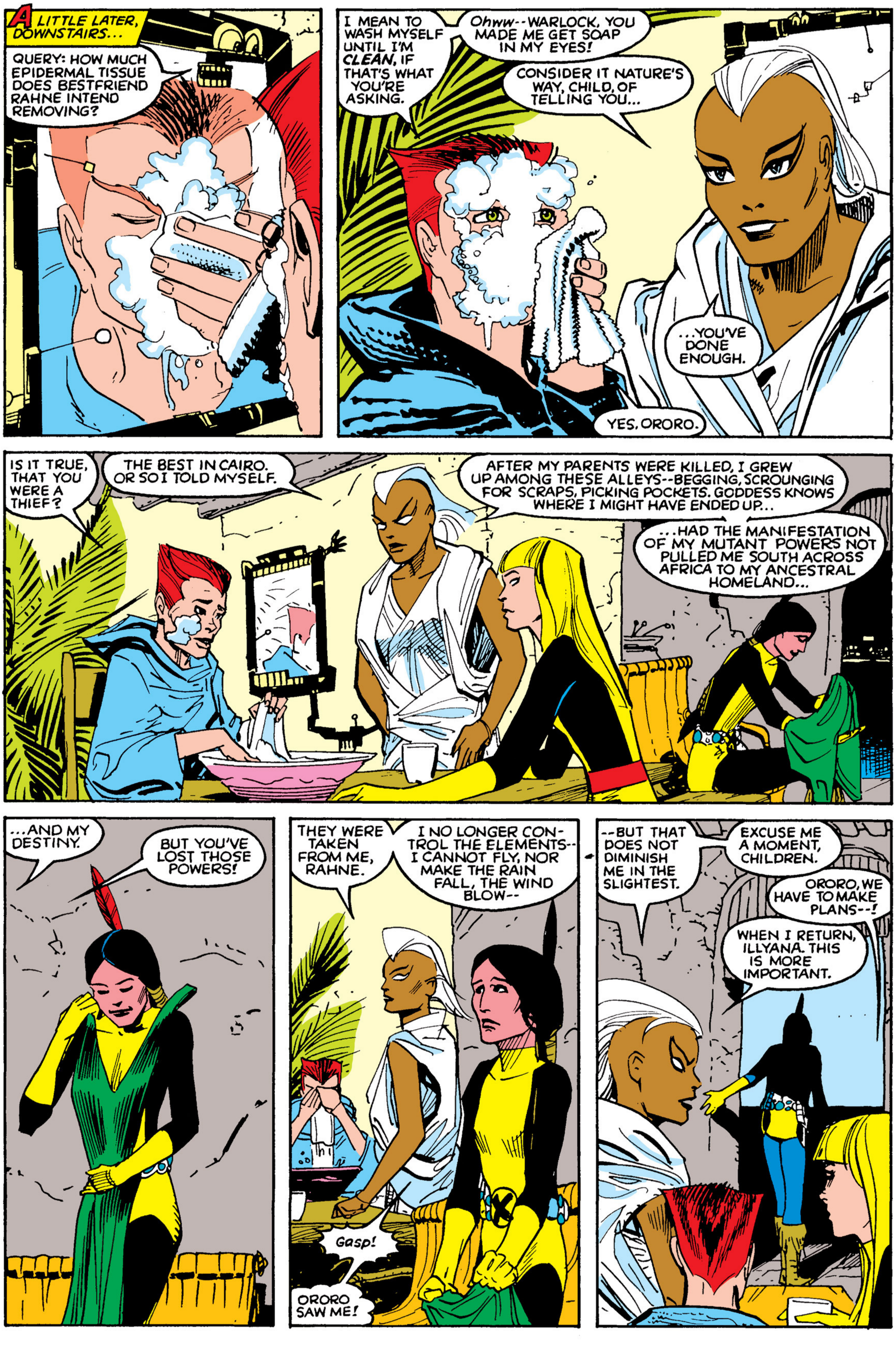

CANNONBALL IS VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE WHEN HE BLASTS, BUT HE ALSO HAS CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY MANEUVERING. THAT WORKS TO MY ADVANTAGE.
HE IS *YOURS,* MAGIK!
MY PLEASURE, BOSS!
*THE SOULSWORD IS THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF **ILLYANA RASPUTIN'S** ARCANE POWER.*
IT'S DEADLY TO SORCEROUS SPELLS AND ENTITIES, BUT CAN DO NO HARM TO ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE.
SAM GUTHRIE KNOWS THIS-- BUT KARMA DOES NOT.
SO WHEN MAGIK SLICES THE GLEAMING BLADE THROUGH HER TEAMMATE...
...KARMA REACTS APPROPRIATELY.
AAIIEEEE--!!
SHE ISN'T HURT--SHE MERELY THINKS SHE IS--BUT HER SHOCK AND SURPRISE ARE SUFFICIENT TO SEND SAM SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUDDY.
I HOPE I HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
WHOOPS-- GOTTA RUN, RAHNE'S ON MY TAIL.
MY SWORD WON'T STOP HER-- KARMA'S TOO SMART AND NASTY TO BE SUCKERED THE SAME WAY TWICE. BUT THAT'S OKAY, WE'VE GOT A PLAN!
GOOD LORD-- A *WOLF!*
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHO *ARE* THESE CHILDREN?!
GANGWAY-- COMIN' THROUGH!!
IS THIS PART OF THE SHOW?
HI, WOLFSBANE.
GRRRAWR!

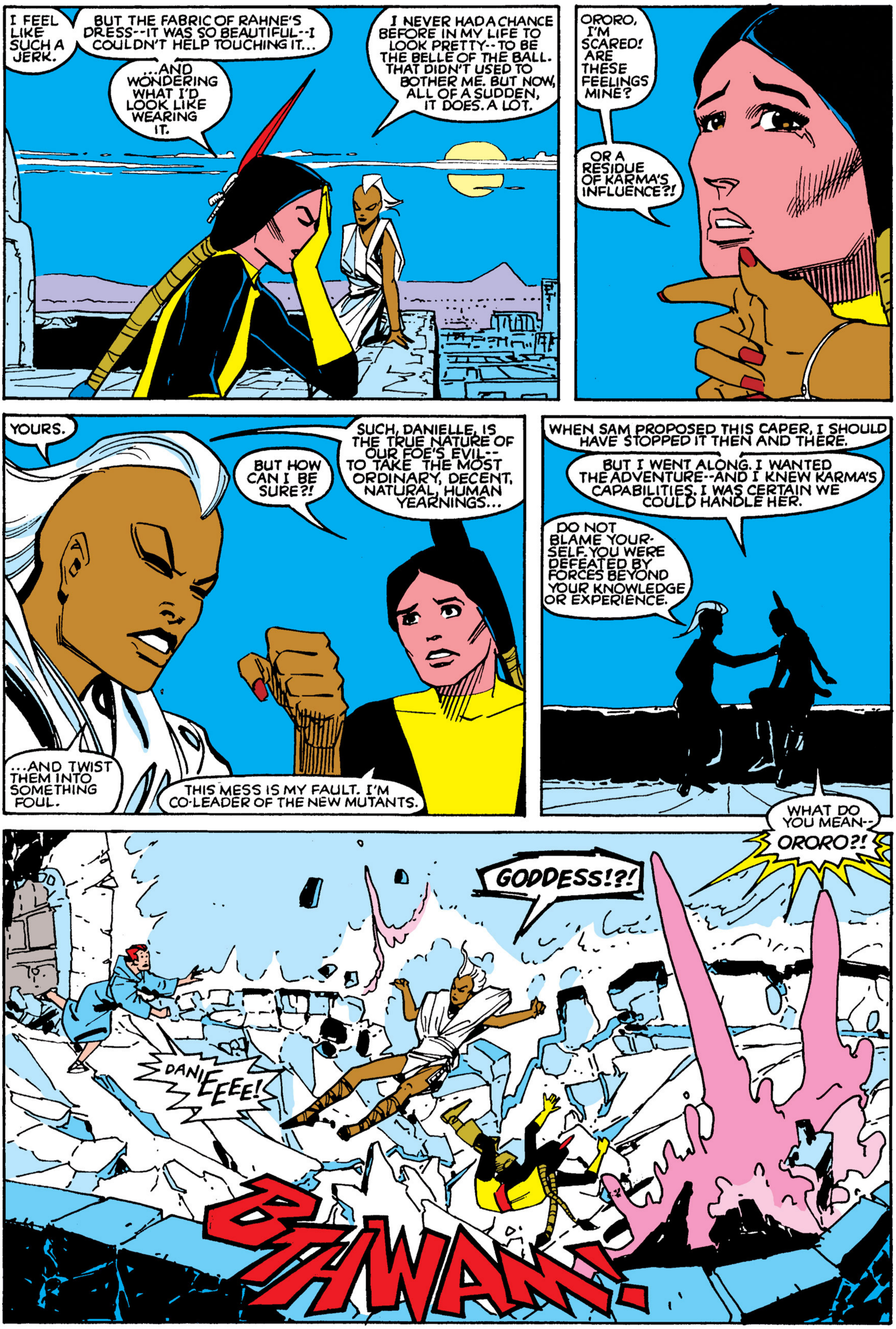

HEY, IS THIS ANY WAY TO GREET YOUR BEST FRIEND?
YES!
OKAY--OUR SPECIAL PSILINK, THE RAPPORT THAT BINDS US WHEN RAHNE'S IN WOLF-FORM, STILL WORKS! I'VE GOT TO TRY TO REACH HER, BREAK KARMA'S HOLD...
FIGHT THE BLIMP'S POSSESSION, LITTLE FUR-SISTER--YOU CAN DO IT!
BORROW MY STRENGTH--!
SILLY GIRL--
KARMA--HER THOUGHTS, IN MY MIND!!
--HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, I AM ALSO A TELEPATH?
YOUR PSILINK, DEAREST DANI, IS A TWO-EDGED SWORD. I CAN USE IT TO POSSESS YOU!
NO!
CAN'T BREAK CONTACT, KARMA WON'T LET ME!
HEAD ACHING-- FEEL KARMA'S INFLUENCE... GROWING-- TRYING TO RESIST...
MONSTER--
--LEAVE MY FRIEND BE!!
RAHNE'S REVERSION TO HUMAN SNAPS THE PSILINK.
AND DANI WASTES NO TIME MOUNTING A COUNTER-ATTACK...
...USING HER OWN UNIQUE PSI-TALENT TO CREATE A REAL-AS-LIFE MANIFESTATION OF THE THING KARMA FEARS MOST.
CHARLES XAVIER!?!
GREAT--WHILE SHE'S DISTRACTED...
HEAD FOR THE EXIT, KIDDO--FAST AS YOU CAN!
...WE CAN BUST OUT OF THIS JOINT!

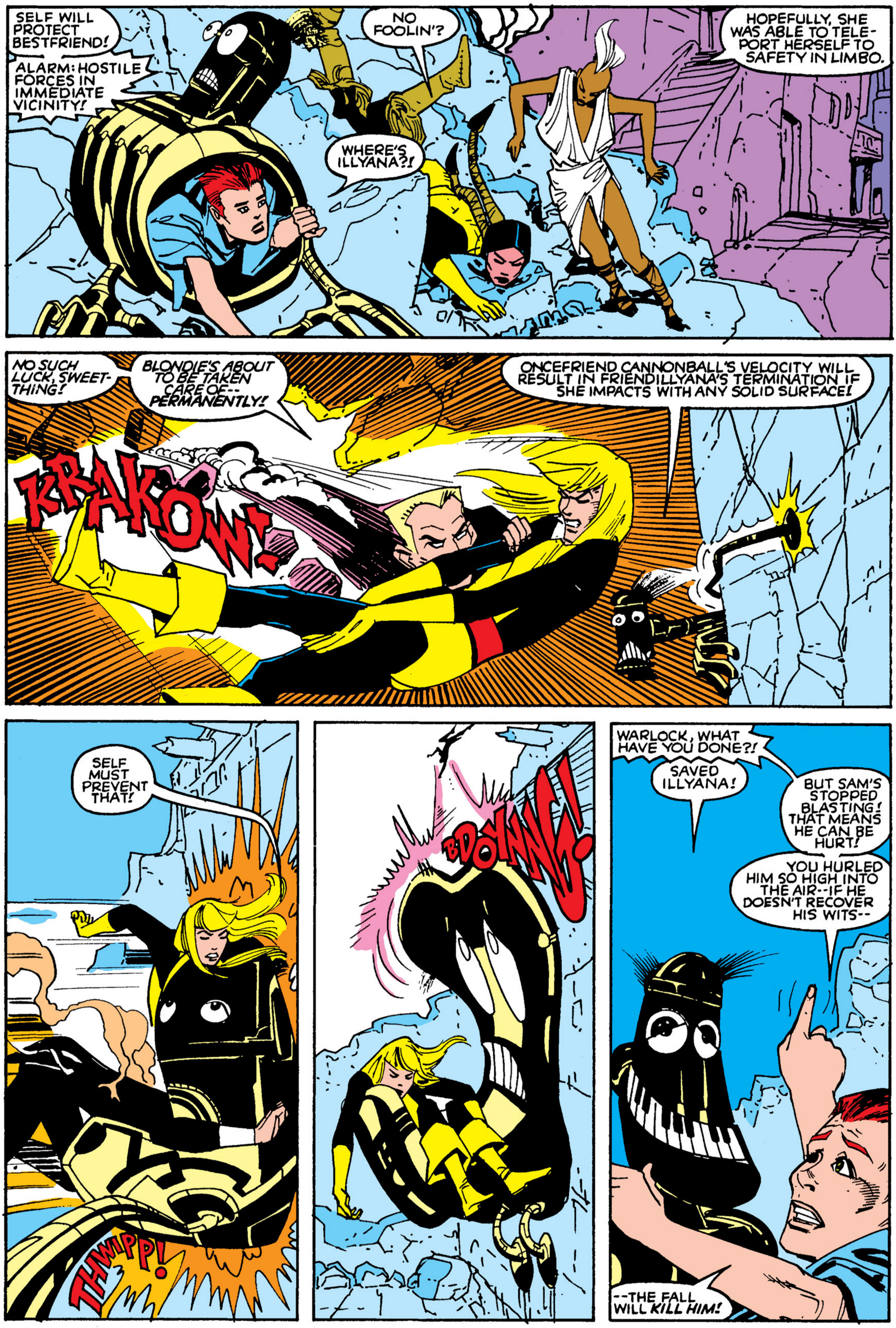

AN *ILLUSION!*
IT WAS NO MORE THAN THAT ACCURSED INDIAN'S ACCURSED PHANTASMS!!
Uh-oh--
--KARMA RECOVERED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED!
RAHNE'S IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT, OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO RUN!
NOT SO FAST, BRAT!
NOBODY LEAVES MY PARTY --UNTIL *I* SAY SO.
SHE POSSESSED EVERYONE IN THE CLUB!
BUT HOW--?! THERE ARE SO MANY-- KARMA NEVER HAD SUCH POWER. WHEN I KNEW HER, SHE COULD BARELY MANAGE TWO.
WITH THEIR MINDS UNDER KARMA'S CONTROL, MY POWERS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT. EVEN IF THEY DID, I'M NOT SURE I'D CUT LOOSE.
EXIT
THESE ARE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS. I CAN'T HURT THEM.
KARMA COULD GRAB RAHNE AND ME ANYTIME--BUT SHE WANTS TO PLAY WITH US FIRST, THE ARROGANT BLOAT.
WHERE THE HECK ARE THE OTHERS--STORM, ILLYANA, AND *WARLOCK?* WE COULD USE SOME *HELP!*

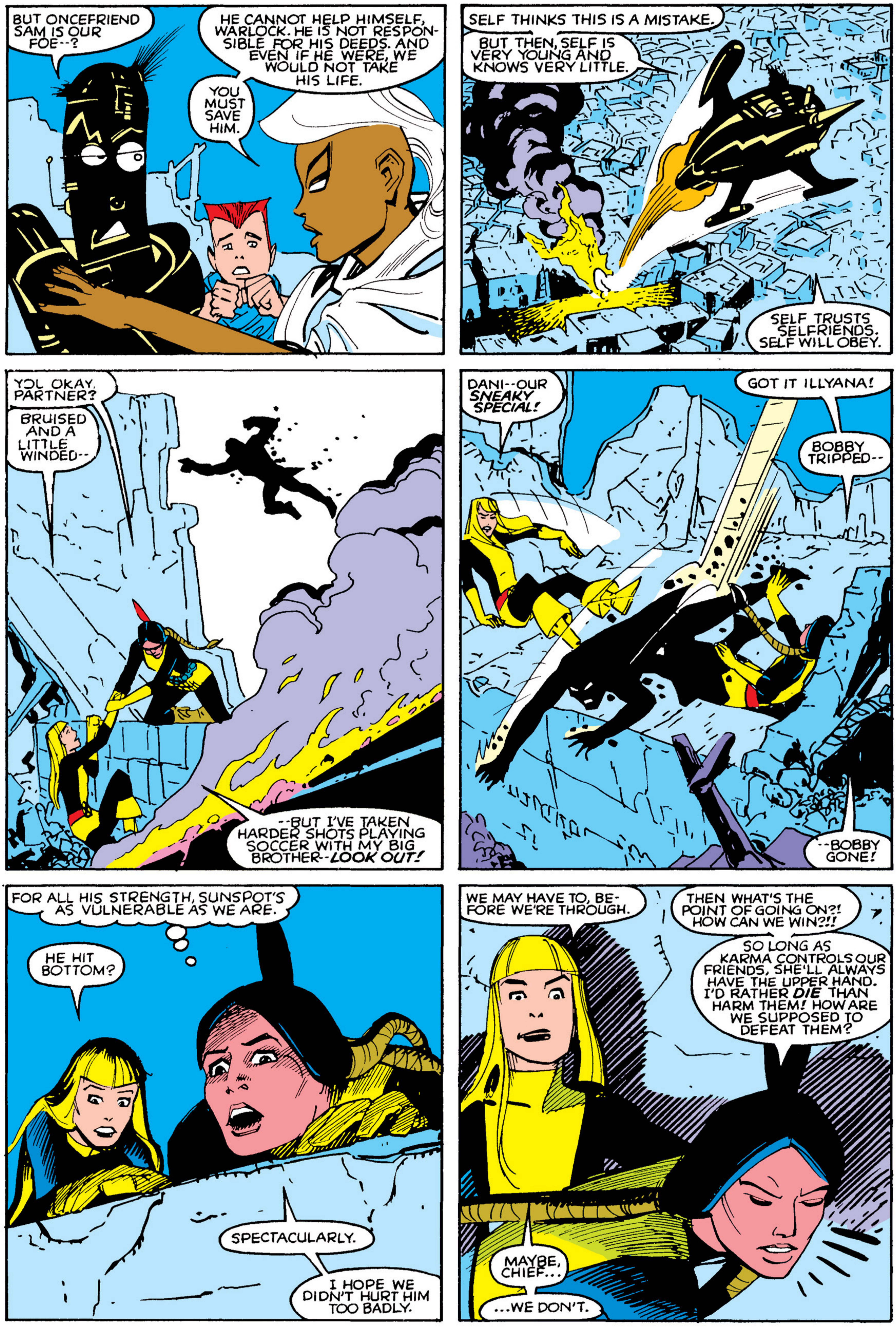

FEAR NOT, CHIEFRIEND DANIMIRAGE!
Huh--!?! THE RUG--?!?
THE CAVALRY HAS ARRIVED TO SAVE YOUR DAY, SAME AS IN THE MOVIES-- WHOOPEE-YIPPIE-KI-YAY!
WARLOCK!
YOU, PAL, ARE THE PROVERBIAL SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!
Sigh!
CONCERN! ARE SELFRIEND'S PRIMARY OCULAR SENSORS DYSFUNCTIONAL?
NEVER MIND, 'LOCKE-- WE'RE JUST REAL GLAD TO SEE YOU.
ECHO STATEMENT.
WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN.
QUERY: OTHER FRIENDS?
LET'S NOT PUSH OUR LUCK.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE STORM AND ILLYANA ARE?
AFFIRMATIVE-- STRONG SENSOR CONTACT!
'BYE, NOW!
NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN, SHAPE-SHIFTER, OR TRY TO HIDE--
--I SHALL FIND YOU!
AND HAVE MY REVENGE!
QUERY: THAT WAS A TEAMFRIEND?
ONCE.
BUT NOW SHE'S SIMPLY ANOTHER VILLAIN...
...WHO HAS TO BE BEATEN--
--AT ANY COST.
PHAROAH

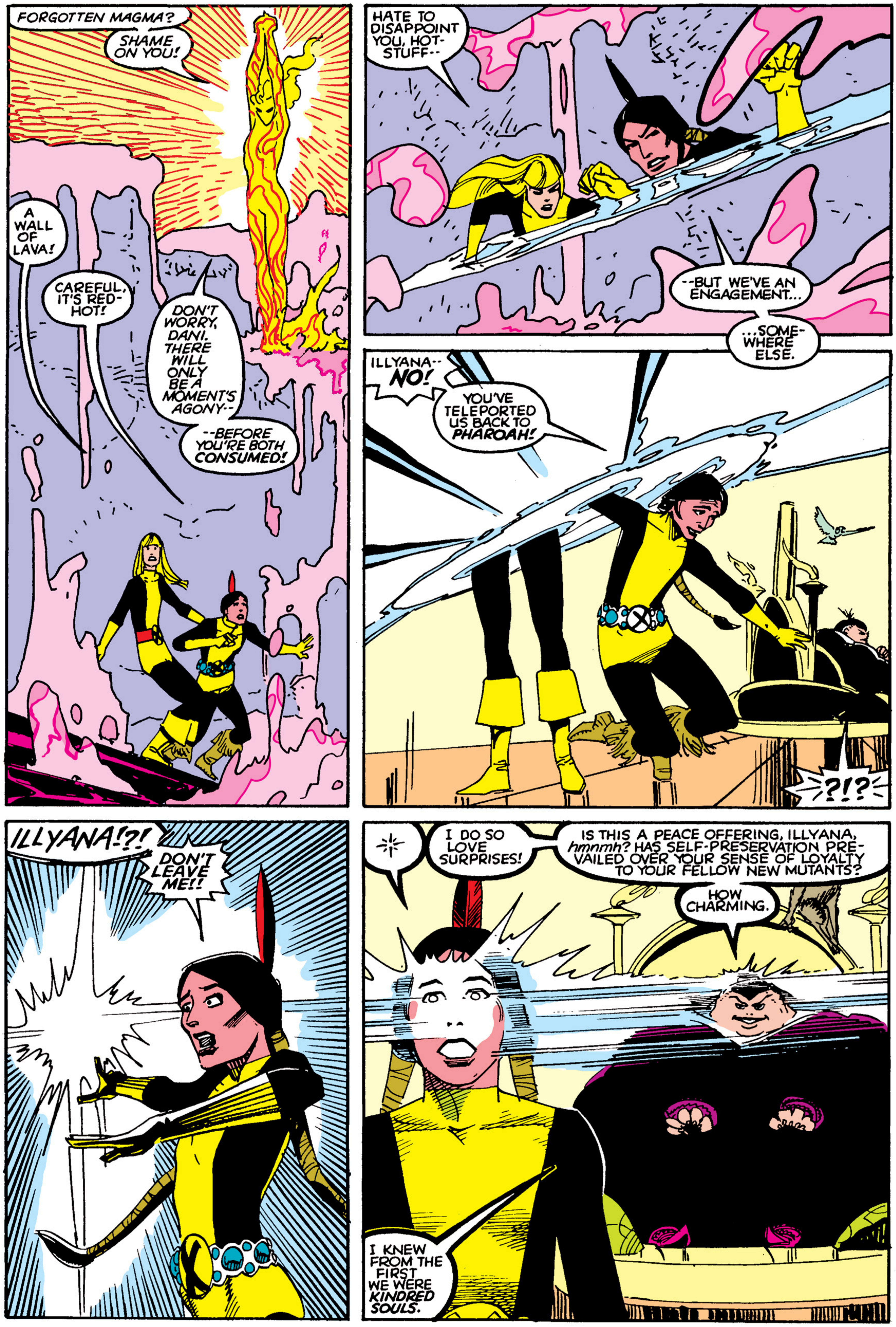

MY WILL IS ABSOLUTE.
MY SLAVES WILL DO WHATEVER I REQUIRE--EVEN SLAY THEIR FRIENDS, THOSE THEY LOVE.
IT MATTERS NOT THAT I HAVE LOST THIS BATTLE...
...FOR I SHALL SURELY WIN THE WAR!
ELSEWHERE...
NICE NEIGHBORHOOD.
IT IS STORMFRIEND'S CHOICE. SHE SAYS SHE USED TO LIVE HERE.
NIGHTMARE'S OVER, CARROT-TOP.
Ugh!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW--EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
WHERE AM I? Oh, DANI--THE LAST I REMEMBER, WE WERE ON A SOUTH SEA ISLE--BUT THIS IS DESERT!
WHAT ARE THESE CLOTHES, WHY AM I DRESSED SO--?!!
IT'S A LONG STORY, RAHNEY.
AND MAYBE IT'S BEST YOU NEVER LEARN IT.
I FEEL...DIRTY INSIDE! THE OTHERS--'BERTO, AMARA, SAM--THEY'VE BECOME EVIL!
WAS I LIKE THAT?!
UNIMPORTANT!!
IT IS WHAT BESTFRIEND IS AND WILL BE THAT MATTERS!
SNIFFS
URPSLURP
WHUFF
WARLOCK--oh YOU GREAT SILLY--!
BESTFRIEND LEAKED MOISTURE FROM OCULAR SENSORS--SELF WAS MERELY TRYING TO CLEAN IT OFF.
YOU DID FINE.
BUT LEAKAGE HAS INCREASED!!
TRUST ME.
?

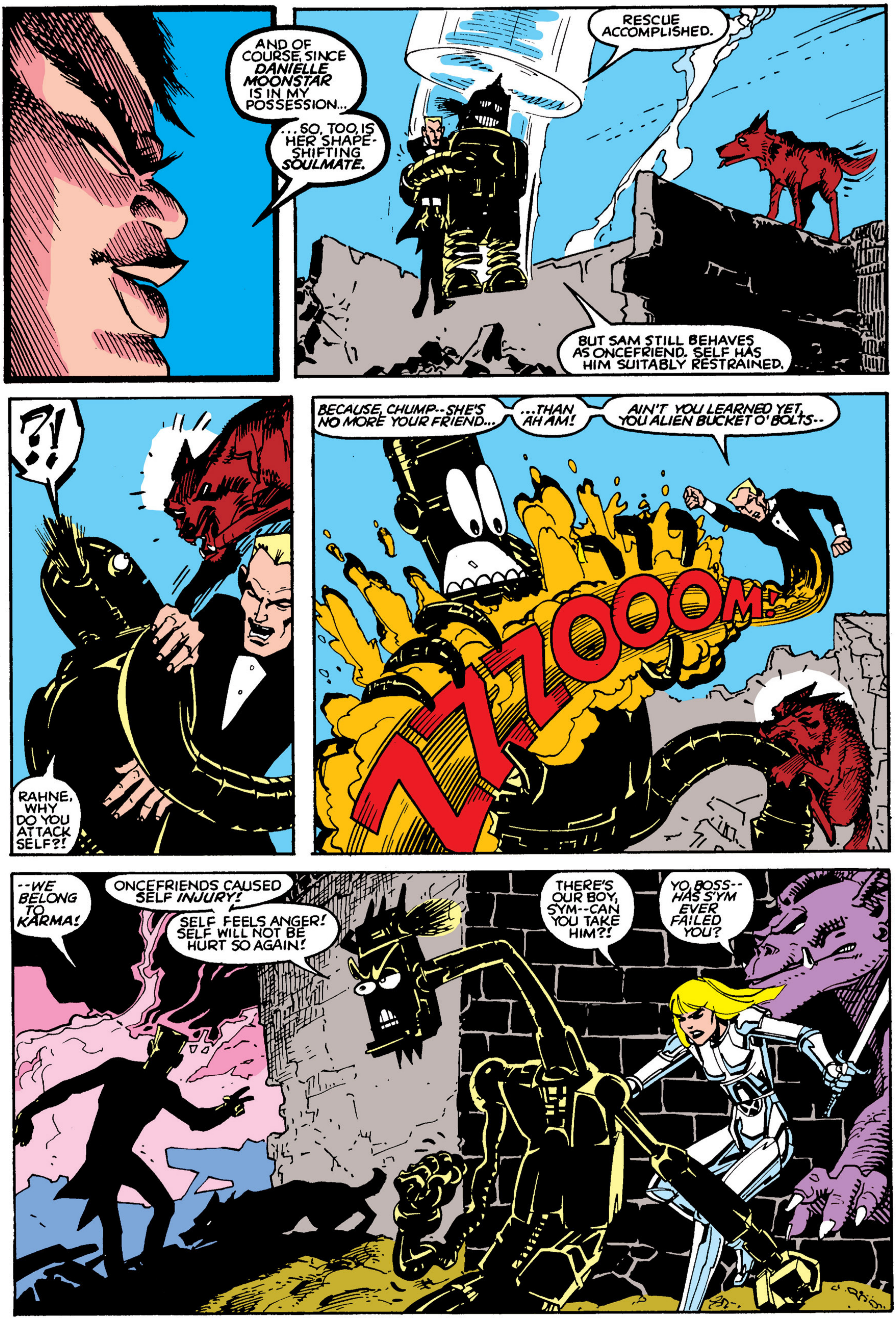

A LITTLE LATER, DOWNSTAIRS...
QUERY: HOW MUCH EPIDERMAL TISSUE DOES BESTFRIEND RAHNE INTEND REMOVING?
I MEAN TO WASH MYSELF UNTIL I'M *CLEAN*, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.
Ohww--WARLOCK, YOU MADE ME GET SOAP IN MY EYES!
CONSIDER IT NATURE'S WAY, CHILD, OF TELLING YOU...
...YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.
YES, ORORO.
IS IT TRUE, THAT YOU WERE A THIEF?
THE BEST IN CAIRO. OR SO I TOLD MYSELF.
AFTER MY PARENTS WERE KILLED, I GREW UP AMONG THESE ALLEYS--BEGGING, SCROUNGING FOR SCRAPS, PICKING POCKETS. GODDESS KNOWS WHERE I MIGHT HAVE ENDED UP...
...HAD THE MANIFESTATION OF MY MUTANT POWERS NOT PULLED ME SOUTH ACROSS AFRICA TO MY ANCESTRAL HOMELAND...
...AND MY DESTINY.
BUT YOU'VE LOST THOSE POWERS!
THEY WERE TAKEN FROM ME, RAHNE.
I NO LONGER CONTROL THE ELEMENTS--I CANNOT FLY, NOR MAKE THE RAIN FALL, THE WIND BLOW--
Gasp!
ORORO SAW ME!
--BUT THAT DOES NOT DIMINISH ME IN THE SLIGHTEST.
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, CHILDREN.
ORORO, WE HAVE TO MAKE PLANS--!
WHEN I RETURN, ILLYANA. THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT.

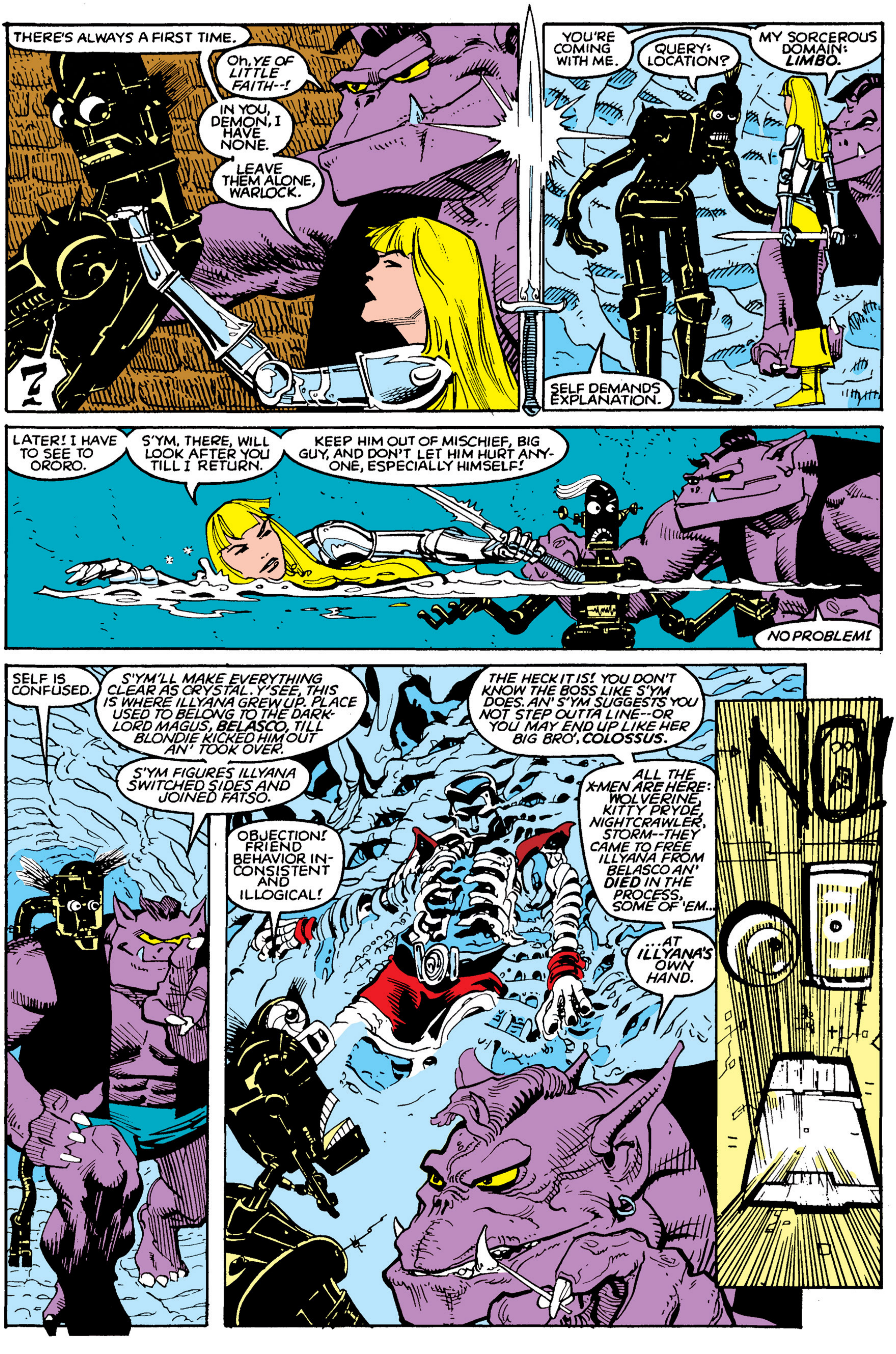

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A JERK.
BUT THE FABRIC OF RAHNE'S DRESS--IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL--I COULDN'T HELP TOUCHING IT...
...AND WONDERING WHAT I'D LOOK LIKE WEARING IT.
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE BEFORE IN MY LIFE TO LOOK PRETTY--TO BE THE BELLE OF THE BALL. THAT DIDN'T USED TO BOTHER ME. BUT NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, IT DOES. A LOT.
ORORO, I'M SCARED! ARE THESE FEELINGS MINE?
OR A RESIDUE OF KARMA'S INFLUENCE?!
YOURS.
BUT HOW CAN I BE SURE?!
SUCH, DANIELLE, IS THE TRUE NATURE OF OUR FOE'S EVIL--TO TAKE THE MOST ORDINARY, DECENT, NATURAL, HUMAN YEARNINGS...
...AND TWIST THEM INTO SOMETHING FOUL.
THIS MESS IS MY FAULT. I'M CO-LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS.
WHEN SAM PROPOSED THIS CAPER, I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED IT THEN AND THERE.
BUT I WENT ALONG. I WANTED THE ADVENTURE--AND I KNEW KARMA'S CAPABILITIES. I WAS CERTAIN WE COULD HANDLE HER.
DO NOT BLAME YOURSELF. YOU WERE DEFEATED BY FORCES BEYOND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN--ORORO?!
GODDESS!?!
DANIEEEE!
BTHWAM!

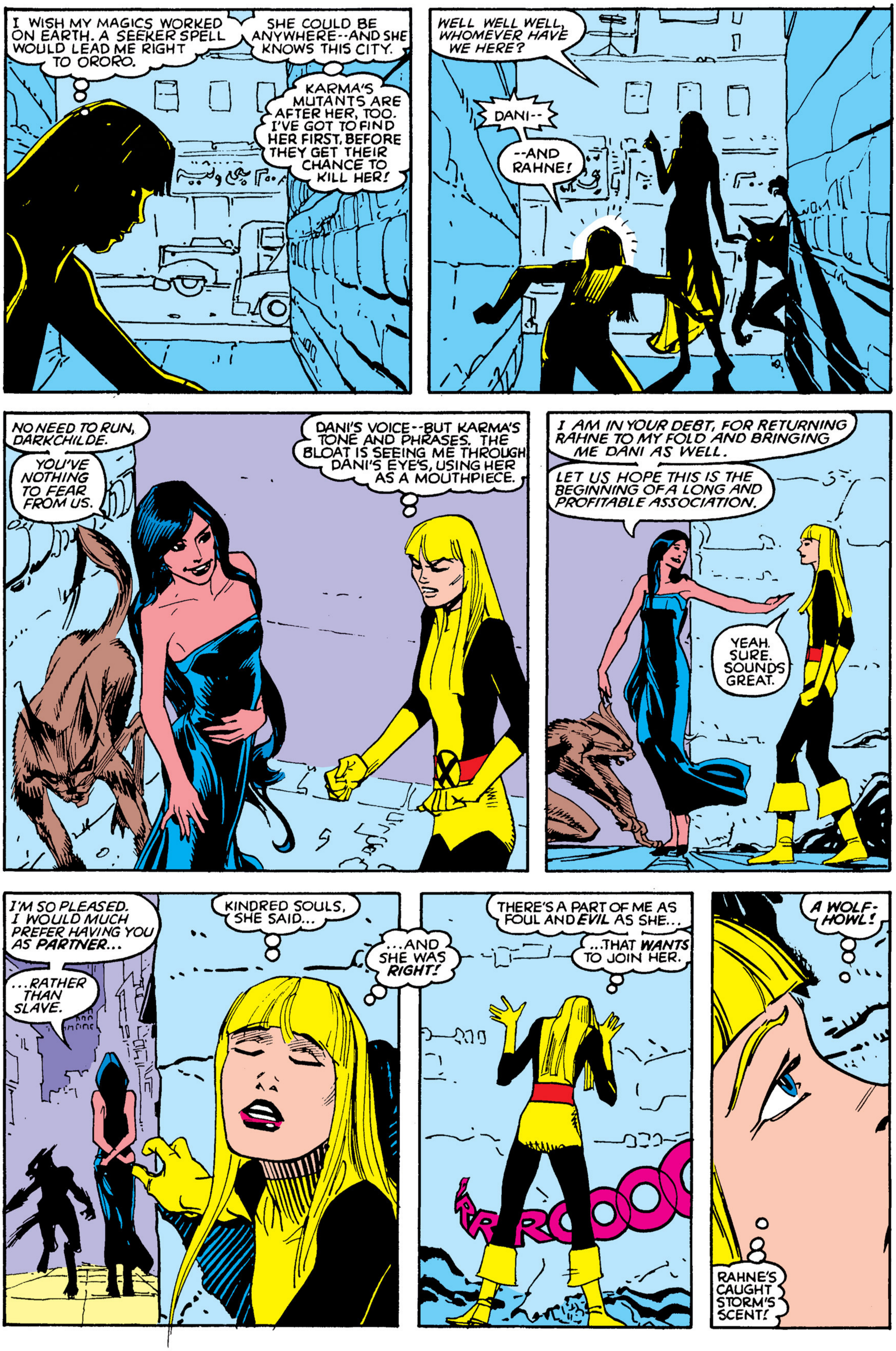

SELF WILL PROTECT BESTFRIEND!
ALARM: HOSTILE FORCES IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY!
NO FOOLIN'?
WHERE'S ILLYANA?!
HOPEFULLY, SHE WAS ABLE TO TELEPORT HERSELF TO SAFETY IN LIMBO.
NO SUCH LUCK, SWEET-THING!
BLONDIE'S ABOUT TO BE TAKEN CARE OF-- PERMANENTLY!
ONCEFRIEND CANNONBALL'S VELOCITY WILL RESULT IN FRIENDILLYANA'S TERMINATION IF SHE IMPACTS WITH ANY SOLID SURFACE!
KRAKOW!
SELF MUST PREVENT THAT!
THWIPP!
B'DOYNNG!
WARLOCK, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
SAVED ILLYANA!
BUT SAM'S STOPPED BLASTING! THAT MEANS HE CAN BE HURT!
YOU HURLED HIM SO HIGH INTO THE AIR--IF HE DOESN'T RECOVER HIS WITS--
--THE FALL WILL KILL HIM!

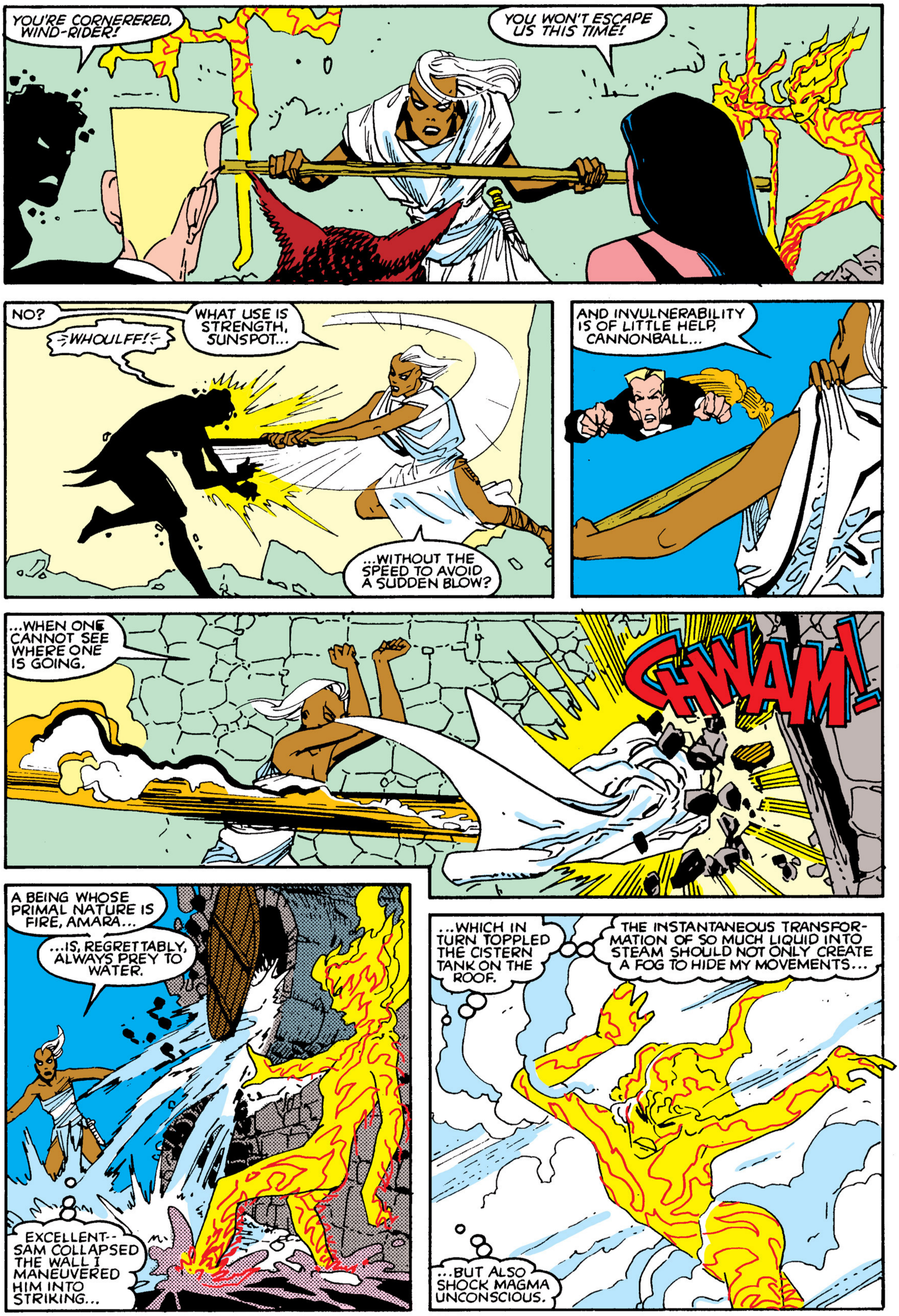

BUT ONCEFRIEND SAM IS OUR FOE--?
HE CANNOT HELP HIMSELF, WARLOCK. HE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEEDS. AND EVEN IF HE WERE, WE WOULD NOT TAKE HIS LIFE.
YOU MUST SAVE HIM.
SELF THINKS THIS IS A MISTAKE.
BUT THEN, SELF IS VERY YOUNG AND KNOWS VERY LITTLE.
SELF TRUSTS SELFRIENDS. SELF WILL OBEY.
YOU OKAY, PARTNER?
BRUISED AND A LITTLE WINDED--
--BUT I'VE TAKEN HARDER SHOTS PLAYING SOCCER WITH MY BIG BROTHER--*LOOK OUT!*
DANI--OUR *SNEAKY SPECIAL!*
GOT IT ILLYANA!
BOBBY TRIPPED--
--BOBBY GONE!
FOR ALL HIS STRENGTH, SUNSPOT'S AS VULNERABLE AS WE ARE.
HE HIT BOTTOM?
SPECTACULARLY.
I HOPE WE DIDN'T HURT HIM TOO BADLY.
WE MAY HAVE TO, BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH.
THEN WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING ON?! HOW CAN WE WIN?!!
SO LONG AS KARMA CONTROLS OUR FRIENDS, SHE'LL ALWAYS HAVE THE UPPER HAND. I'D RATHER *DIE* THAN HARM THEM! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DEFEAT THEM?
MAYBE, CHIEF...
...WE DON'T.

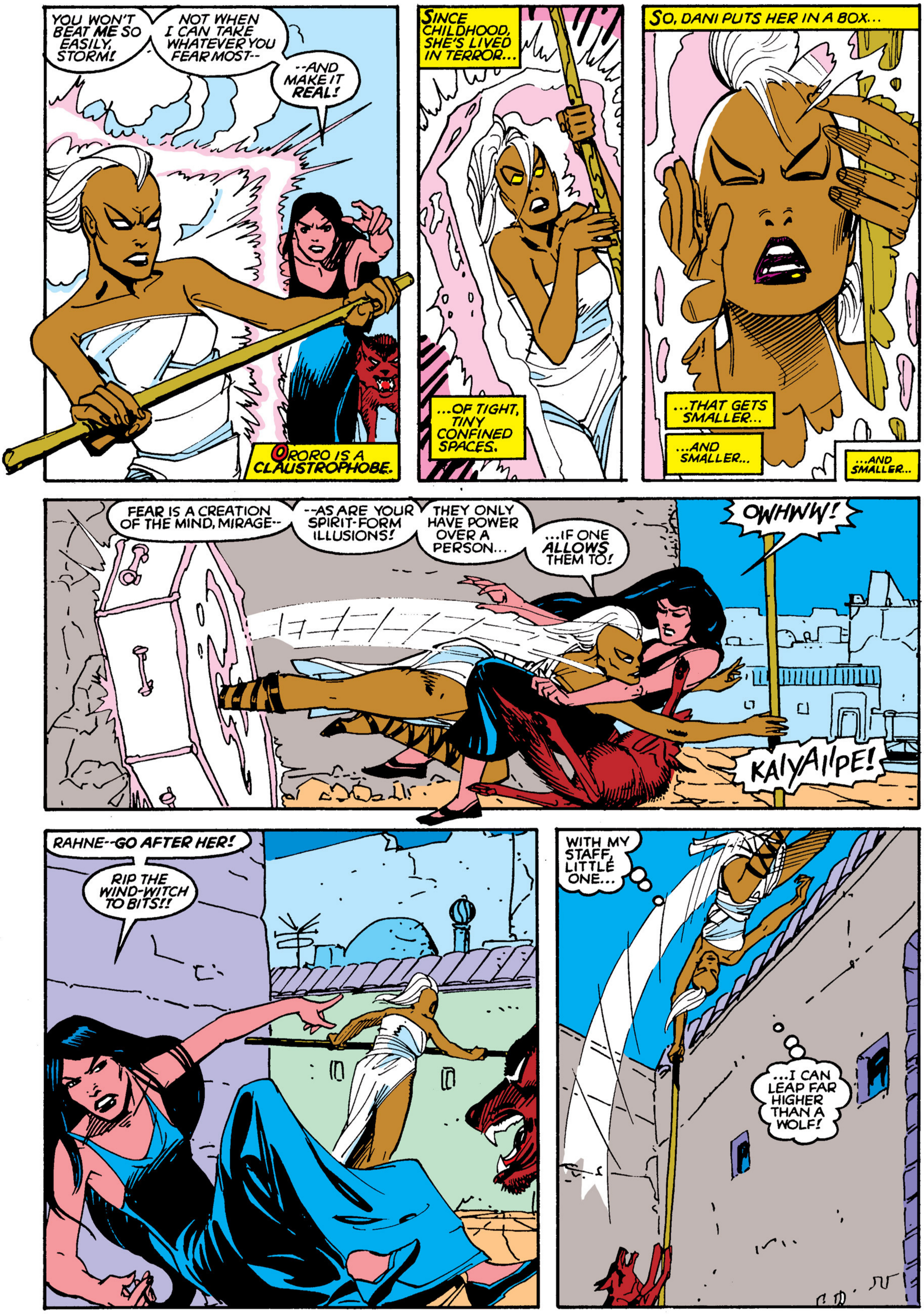

FORGOTTEN MAGMA?
SHAME ON YOU!
A WALL OF LAVA!
CAREFUL, IT'S RED-HOT!
DON'T WORRY, DANI. THERE WILL ONLY BE A MOMENT'S AGONY--
--BEFORE YOU'RE BOTH CONSUMED!
HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, HOT-STUFF--
--BUT WE'VE AN ENGAGEMENT...
...SOMEWHERE ELSE.
ILLYANA-- NO!
YOU'VE TELEPORTED US BACK TO PHAROAH!
?!?
ILLYANA!?!
DON'T LEAVE ME!!
I DO SO LOVE SURPRISES!
IS THIS A PEACE OFFERING, ILLYANA, hmnmh? HAS SELF-PRESERVATION PREVAILED OVER YOUR SENSE OF LOYALTY TO YOUR FELLOW NEW MUTANTS?
HOW CHARMING.
I KNEW FROM THE FIRST WE WERE KINDRED SOULS.

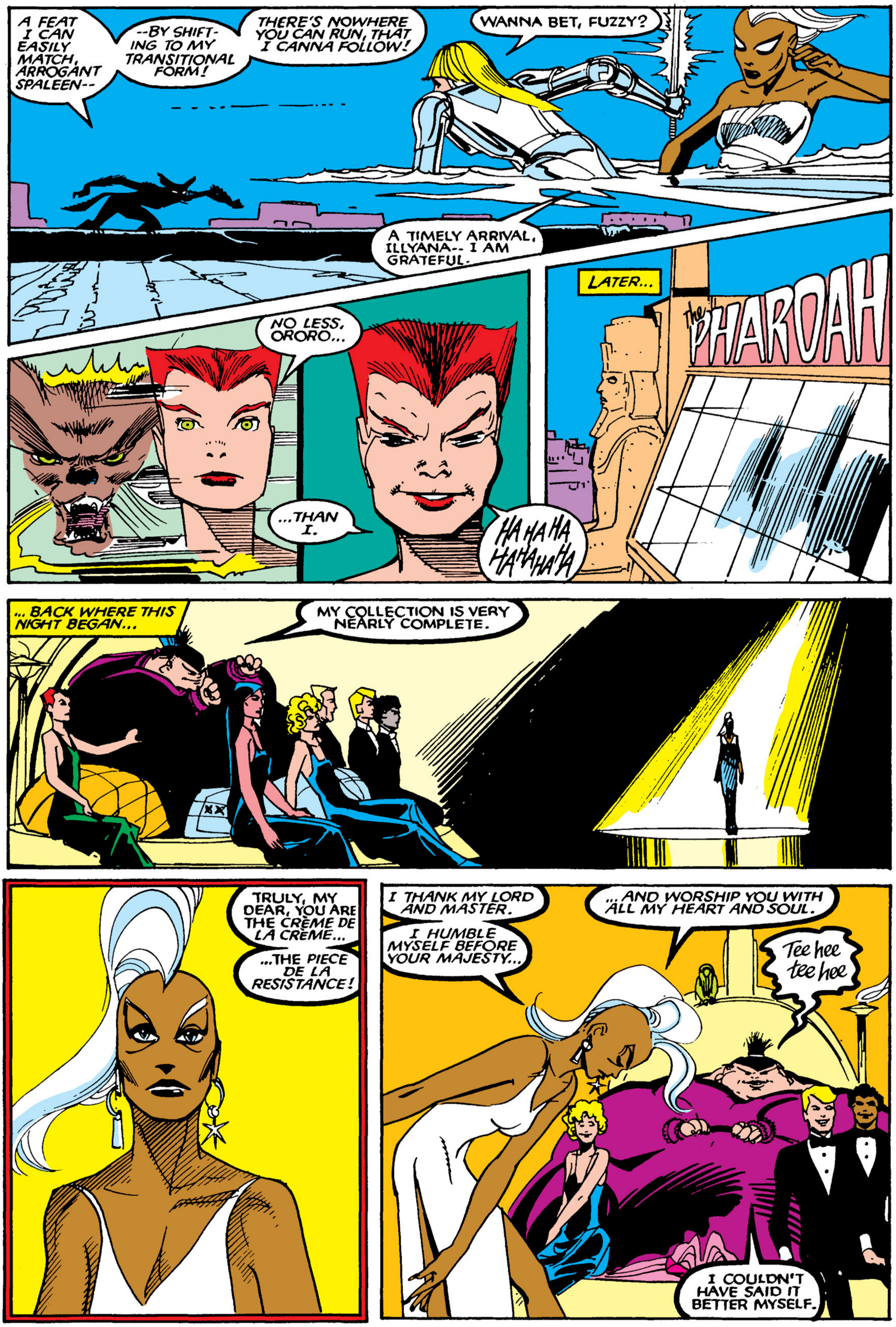

AND OF COURSE, SINCE *DANIELLE MOONSTAR* IS IN MY POSSESSION...
...SO, TOO, IS HER SHAPE-SHIFTING *SOULMATE.*
RESCUE ACCOMPLISHED.
BUT SAM STILL BEHAVES AS ONCEFRIEND. SELF HAS HIM SUITABLY RESTRAINED.
?!
RAHNE, WHY DO YOU ATTACK SELF?!
BECAUSE, CHUMP--SHE'S NO MORE YOUR FRIEND...
...THAN AH AM!
AIN'T YOU LEARNED YET, YOU ALIEN BUCKET O' BOLTS--
ZZZOOOM!
--WE BELONG TO KARMA!
ONCEFRIENDS CAUSED SELF *INJURY!*
SELF FEELS ANGER! SELF WILL NOT BE HURT SO AGAIN!
THERE'S OUR BOY, SYM--CAN YOU TAKE HIM?!
YO, BOSS--HAS S'YM EVER FAILED YOU?

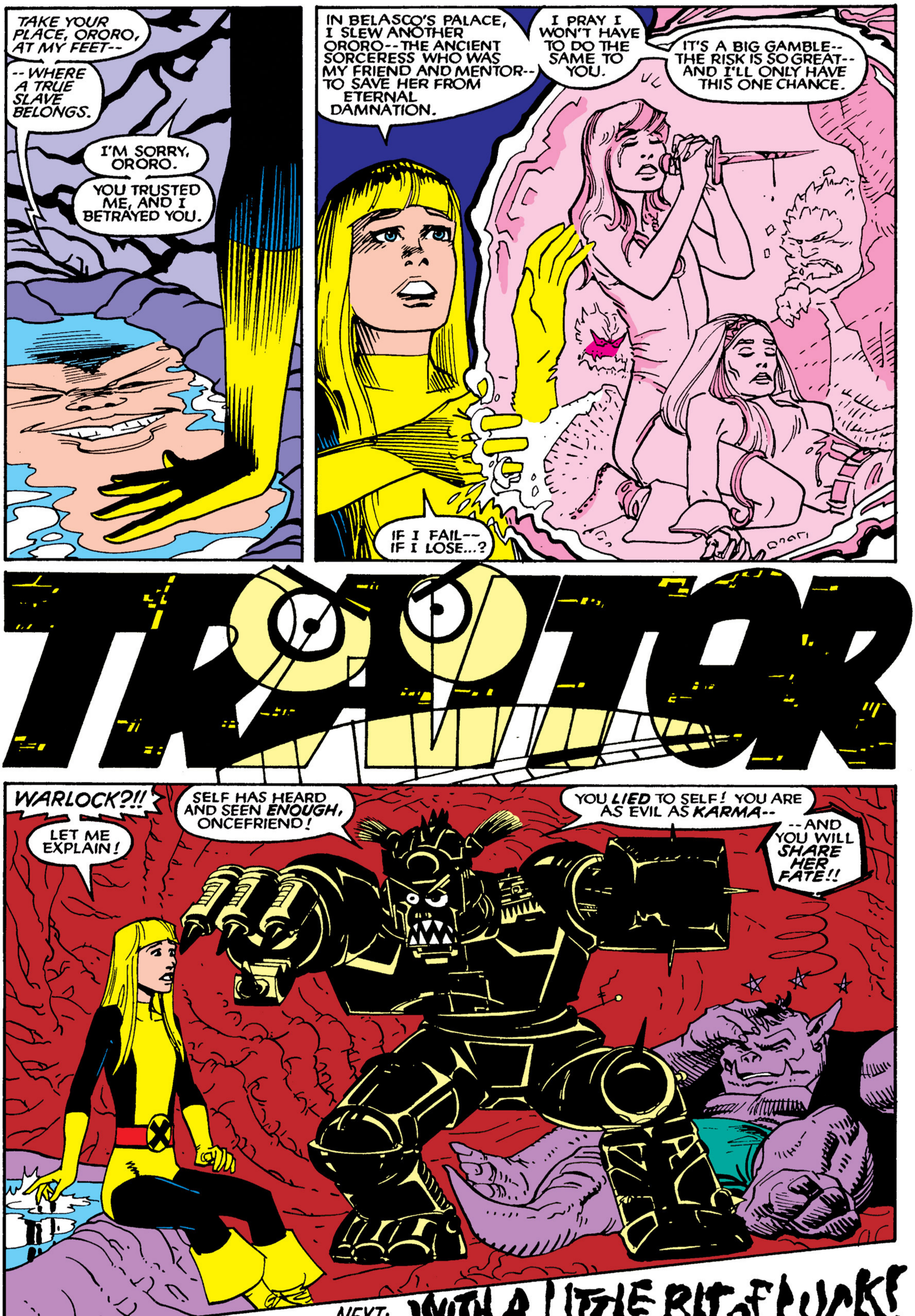

THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME.
Oh, *YE OF LITTLE FAITH*--!
IN YOU, DEMON, I HAVE NONE.
LEAVE THEM ALONE, WARLOCK.
7
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
QUERY: LOCATION?
MY SORCEROUS DOMAIN: ***LIMBO.***
SELF DEMANDS EXPLANATION.
LATER! I HAVE TO SEE TO ORORO.
S'YM, THERE, WILL LOOK AFTER YOU TILL I RETURN.
KEEP HIM OUT OF MISCHIEF, BIG GUY, AND DON'T LET HIM HURT ANYONE, ESPECIALLY HIMSELF!
NO PROBLEM!
SELF IS CONFUSED.
S'YM'LL MAKE EVERYTHING CLEAR AS CRYSTAL. Y'SEE, THIS IS WHERE ILLYANA GREW UP. PLACE USED TO BELONG TO THE DARK-LORD MAGUS, **BELASCO**, TILL BLONDIE KICKED HIM OUT AN' TOOK OVER.
S'YM FIGURES ILLYANA SWITCHED SIDES AND JOINED FATSO.
OBJECTION! FRIEND BEHAVIOR INCONSISTENT AND ILLOGICAL!
THE HECK IT IS! YOU DON'T KNOW THE BOSS LIKE S'YM DOES. AN' S'YM SUGGESTS YOU NOT STEP OUTTA LINE--OR YOU MAY END UP LIKE HER BIG BRO', **COLOSSUS**.
ALL THE *X-MEN* ARE HERE: **WOLVERINE**, *KITTY PRYDE*, *NIGHTCRAWLER*, *STORM*--THEY CAME TO FREE *ILLYANA* FROM *BELASCO* AN' **DIED** IN THE PROCESS, SOME OF 'EM...
...AT **ILLYANA'S** OWN HAND.
NO!


I WISH MY MAGICS WORKED ON EARTH. A SEEKER SPELL WOULD LEAD ME RIGHT TO ORORO.
SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE--AND SHE KNOWS THIS CITY.
KARMA'S MUTANTS ARE AFTER HER, TOO. I'VE GOT TO FIND HER FIRST, BEFORE THEY GET THEIR CHANCE TO KILL HER!
WELL WELL WELL, WHOMEVER HAVE WE HERE?
DANI--
--AND RAHNE!
NO NEED TO RUN, DARKCHILDE.
YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM US.
DANI'S VOICE--BUT KARMA'S TONE AND PHRASES. THE BLOAT IS SEEING ME THROUGH DANI'S EYES, USING HER AS A MOUTHPIECE.
I AM IN YOUR DEBT, FOR RETURNING RAHNE TO MY FOLD AND BRINGING ME DANI AS WELL.
LET US HOPE THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG AND PROFITABLE ASSOCIATION.
YEAH. SURE. SOUNDS GREAT.
I'M SO PLEASED. I WOULD MUCH PREFER HAVING YOU AS *PARTNER*...
...RATHER THAN SLAVE.
KINDRED SOULS, SHE SAID...
...AND SHE WAS *RIGHT!*
THERE'S A PART OF ME AS FOUL AND *EVIL* AS SHE...
...THAT *WANTS* TO JOIN HER.
ARRROOOOO
A WOLF-HOWL!
RAHNE'S CAUGHT STORM'S SCENT!


YOU'RE CORNERERED, WIND-RIDER!
YOU WON'T ESCAPE US THIS TIME!
NO?
WHAT USE IS STRENGTH, SUNSPOT...
WHOULFF!
...WITHOUT THE SPEED TO AVOID A SUDDEN BLOW?
AND INVULNERABILITY IS OF LITTLE HELP, CANNONBALL...
...WHEN ONE CANNOT SEE WHERE ONE IS GOING.
CHWAM!
A BEING WHOSE PRIMAL NATURE IS FIRE, AMARA...
...IS, REGRETTABLY, ALWAYS PREY TO WATER.
EXCELLENT-- SAM COLLAPSED THE WALL I MANEUVERED HIM INTO STRIKING...
...WHICH IN TURN TOPPLED THE CISTERN TANK ON THE ROOF.
THE INSTANTANEOUS TRANSFORMATION OF SO MUCH LIQUID INTO STEAM SHOULD NOT ONLY CREATE A FOG TO HIDE MY MOVEMENTS...
...BUT ALSO SHOCK MAGMA UNCONSCIOUS.


YOU WON'T BEAT ME SO EASILY, STORM!
NOT WHEN I CAN TAKE WHATEVER YOU FEAR MOST--
--AND MAKE IT REAL!
ORORO IS A CLAUSTROPHOBE.
SINCE CHILDHOOD, SHE'S LIVED IN TERROR...
...OF TIGHT, TINY CONFINED SPACES.
SO, DANI PUTS HER IN A BOX...
...THAT GETS SMALLER...
...AND SMALLER...
...AND SMALLER...
FEAR IS A CREATION OF THE MIND, MIRAGE--
--AS ARE YOUR SPIRIT-FORM ILLUSIONS!
THEY ONLY HAVE POWER OVER A PERSON...
...IF ONE ALLOWS THEM TO!
OWHWW!
KAIYAIIPE!
RAHNE--GO AFTER HER!
RIP THE WIND-WITCH TO BITS!!
WITH MY STAFF, LITTLE ONE...
...I CAN LEAP FAR HIGHER THAN A WOLF!


A FEAT I CAN EASILY MATCH, ARROGANT SPALEEN--
--BY SHIFTING TO MY TRANSITIONAL FORM!
THERE'S NOWHERE YOU CAN RUN, THAT I CANNA FOLLOW!
WANNA BET, FUZZY?
A TIMELY ARRIVAL, ILLYANA-- I AM GRATEFUL.
NO LESS, ORORO...
...THAN I.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
LATER...
the PHAROAH
...BACK WHERE THIS NIGHT BEGAN...
MY COLLECTION IS VERY NEARLY COMPLETE.
TRULY, MY DEAR, YOU ARE THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME...
...THE PIECE DE LA RESISTANCE!
I THANK MY LORD AND MASTER.
I HUMBLE MYSELF BEFORE YOUR MAJESTY...
...AND WORSHIP YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL.
Tee hee tee hee
I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER MYSELF.


TAKE YOUR PLACE, ORORO, AT MY FEET--
--WHERE A TRUE SLAVE BELONGS.
I'M SORRY, ORORO.
YOU TRUSTED ME, AND I BETRAYED YOU.
IN BELASCO'S PALACE, I SLEW ANOTHER ORORO--THE ANCIENT SORCERESS WHO WAS MY FRIEND AND MENTOR--TO SAVE HER FROM ETERNAL DAMNATION.
I PRAY I WON'T HAVE TO DO THE SAME TO YOU.
IT'S A BIG GAMBLE--THE RISK IS SO GREAT--AND I'LL ONLY HAVE THIS ONE CHANCE.
IF I FAIL--IF I LOSE...?
TRAITOR
WARLOCK?!!
LET ME EXPLAIN!
SELF HAS HEARD AND SEEN ENOUGH, ONCEFRIEND!
YOU LIED TO SELF! YOU ARE AS EVIL AS KARMA--
--AND YOU WILL SHARE HER FATE!!

NEXT: WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK!